



## Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

*Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet*

### EXHIBITION

## Repurposed and Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans

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**BEREA, Ky.** – A new exhibit, “Repurposed and Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans,” opens March 1 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, showcasing both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works made from a wide array of unusual found and recycled materials. From old children’s building blocks to cigarette butts, antique weather vanes and dehydrated tree frogs – this exhibit reveals ingeniously repurposed and recycled materials turned into new and creative works.

Featuring works by 41 Kentucky artists, this exhibit includes jewelry, furniture, clothing, sculpture, collage, paintings and a variety of mixed-media works using fiber, metal and wood.

Of special interest are the myriad techniques and approaches. Several artists have utilized materials from an important event in their lives while others have recycled materials of significant historic value and beauty. Some artists have taken found scraps and materials of former little value, and turned them into new and interesting works.

Amanda Clark creates purses and bags from discarded fabric samples obtained through the *Zero Landfill Project* in Louisville.

“This organization collects all sorts of materials throughout the year from designers, contractors and businesses and then offers them free of charge to artists and teachers.” Clark states, “This is a great resource for me and also diverts these materials from the waste stream.”

Dacelle Peckler creates wire horse sculptures from recycled fencing off her farm in Bourbon County. She uses this wire because it doesn’t rust, and she bends it by hand with pliers into a variety of equine and animal forms. Peckler began creating her horses and other animals from recycled wire in the 1990s.

“The sale of these wire horse sculptures helped put me through veterinarian school and today the proceeds now help me rescue and rehab abused or sickly horses on my farm – eventually finding suitable homes for them.”

A slender table, made from recycled wormy chestnut wood and antique lightning rods reclaimed from a 100-year-old barn in Woodford County, is the work of Berea College educator Alan Mills.

“Two years ago Berea College took down a small historical structure called the ‘Contrast House’ that was constructed entirely by college students under the supervision of instructor and woodworker Rude Osolnik.” Mills continues, “Built by students in 1935, it used locally harvested chestnut from the college forests and was an example of sustainability in the early 1900’s.”

Mills was able to reclaim some of the now-extinct wormy chestnut logs and began repurposing the wood into new works such as the table in this exhibit.

“I have a passion for locating historical structures and artifacts that can be reclaimed and repurposed into one-of-a-kind heirloom pieces.”

As a printmaker, Eastern Kentucky University professor David Mohallatee has a profound love of paper and things printed on paper. Over the years he has collected interesting pages, papers and boxes made from paper. His work in the exhibit titled “Box” is a dramatic arrangement of pages from old books in a swirling spiral that looks like a wheel in motion.

Unusual materials are found in such works as “Circus Chicken” by Helen Merrick, a painting created from recycled dried-up paint, while Sam Greenwell offers a sculptural “Trilobite” made from cardboard boxes and plastic food containers.

Colorful works include painted recycled children’s building blocks by Wendy Currier in the work, “Birds off the Old Blocks,” and Brandon Long has created a colorful abstraction with rusted and painted corrugated roofing tin. Color and whimsy combine in Lonnie and Twyla Money’s work, “Bookworm on a Crate” which incorporates recycled plastic drainage pipe, old books and crates and flexible electrical conduit tubing and more.

Participating artists include: Lydia Allen, Pewee Valley; Mike Angel, London; Lisa Austin, Louisville; Thomas Blanck, Nicholasville; Linda Blumer, Lexington; Jane Bresser, Covington; Pat Brunner, Berea; Stacey Chinn, Lexington; Amanda Clark, Louisville; Sherrie Cocanougher, Parksville; Jeremy Colbert, Lexington; Wendy Currier, Lexington; John Dixon, Danville; Ronald Gosses, Richmond; Sam Greenwell, Georgetown; Vallorie Henderson, Louisville; Ann LeGris, Taylorsville; Deborah Levine, Louisville; Brandon Long, Lancaster; Kathleen Loomis, Louisville; Stephen Marks, Owensboro; Alyce McDonald, Louisville; Helen Merrick, Louisville; Alan Mills, Berea; David Mohallatee, Richmond; Lonnie and Twyla Money, East Bernstadt; Dacelle Peckler, Paris; Gin Petty, Berea; Mary Reed, Irvine; Cathy Wade Ridge, Prospect; Ken Roberts, Cadiz; Felice Sachs, Louisville; Joe Sartor, Morehead; Christa Smith, Elizabethtown; Shawwna Southerland, Berea; Kenneth Taylor, Paris; Norman Veech, Taylorsville; Cathy Vigor, Lexington; Jo Wolf, Monticello; Elizabeth Worley, Lexington, and Richard Kolb (Yardbirds), Louisville.

“Repurposed and Recycled” will be on display March 1 through Sept. 6, 2014, at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea. A meet the artist reception will be held Sunday, March 16, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea, Exit 77. The center’s exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A lobby exhibit, “Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration” is also on display. For more information about the center’s events call 859-985-5448, visit the center’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center](https://www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center), or go to the center’s website at [www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov).

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



**Photos left to right:** "Previous Lives" by Vallorie Henderson; "Box" by David Mohallatee; "Metal Fish" by Ken Roberts; "Goodwill to All" by Shawwna Southerland in the exhibit "Repurposed and Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans" at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.